

REMARKS

With entry of this Amendment claims 37-40, 54 and 59-82 are pending in the application. Claims 1-36, 41-53, and 55-58 were previously cancelled without prejudice to their elective further prosecution in any related application(s). By this Amendment, claims 37, 54 and 76 have been amended for clarity and without prejudice to more distinctly recite certain aspects of the invention. All of the amendments herein are fully supported by the specification, and no new matter has been added to the application. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the application in view of the accompanying remarks is respectfully requested.

Patentability Under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Applicants note that the prior grounds for rejection of claims 37-40, 54, 59-65 and 68-82 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph (Office Action Paper No./Mail Date 10032005, at pages 2-3) are not reiterated in the Advisory Action Paper No. 04072006. Accordingly, the subject grounds for rejection earlier presented by the Office are believed to be overcome by Applicants' remarks presented in the prior Amendment (submitted with the Notice of Appeal received by the Office on January 17, 2006, incorporated herein).

The only apparent remaining ground for rejection in this application, in reference to the Advisory Action Paper No. 04072006, is set forth by the Office as follows:

Applicant has amended the base claim to recite that the immune response is 'antigen-specific'. This does not further limit the claim because the term 'antigen' is broader than the term 'epitope' as put forth in the ground of rejection. Reciting that the response is 'antigen-specific' does not rectify the issue of 'epitope spreading' as put forth previously.

Applicants note that the instant claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestions, to clarify that the subject immune response is indeed "epitope-specific"--as is clearly contemplated in Applicants' specification and evinced by the data presented therein. This amendment is presented for clarity and is not intended to relinquish subject matter within the invention as described nor equivalents thereof.

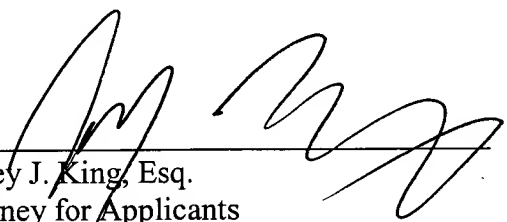
Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds of rejection set forth at pp. 2-3 of the Office Action Paper No./Mail Date 10032005 have therefore been fully overcome, and that the

instant application should be considered by the Office to fully describe and enable the subject matter of claims 37-40, 54 and 59-65 and 68-82 as currently presented for examination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance, and an official action to that end is urged. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at (206) 381-3300.

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